

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 06/20/2012
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: AB 925
AUTHOR: Lara, Ricardo
RELATED BILLS: AB 86, 2011

BILL SUMMARY: Charter schools: petition: description of personnel policies and procedures.

This bill would require charter school petitions to include a description of the schools personnel policies and procedures.

FISCAL SUMMARY

While this bill would not have a fiscal impact at the state level, by increasing the number or requirements necessary for a charter petition to be characterized as complete, it would substantially increase workload and costs on both charter school petitioners and authorizers.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill, as it would substantially increase workload on charter schools and charter authorizers, and further complicate the charter school petition process.

Existing law requires a person or persons interested in establishing a charter school to develop a petition including various components intended to ensure the charter school will be successful. These petitions can be approved or renewed for a period of up to five years, and must be resubmitted to their authorizer for approval of material revisions. Due to the dynamic nature of employment law at the federal, state and local levels, charter schools would likely need to resubmit their petition to their charter authorizer on an annual basis to reflect updated personnel policies and procedures to maintain compliance with the new laws. Not only would this bill increase costs for charter schools and charter authorizers, but it is also impractical and highly inefficient for charter schools to annually resubmit their petitions to their authorizers.

According to the author's office, some charter school employees are unaware of their employment rights. To solve this problem, the author believes that including the personnel policies and procedures in charter petitions will ensure that potential and current employees are aware of their rights. In addition to concerns related to increased workload and costs, Finance does not see the necessity for this bill since charter schools are required to comply with all federal, state and local employment laws similar to any other organization with employees.

On October 8, 2011, the Governor vetoed AB 86 (Mendoza, 2011) which would have expanded signature requirements for charter schools petitions to include classified employees, on the grounds that the bill would unnecessarily complicate an already difficult charter school petition process.

Analyst/Principal (0354) L.Del Castillo	Date	Program Budget Manager Nicolas Schweizer	Date
Department Deputy Director		Date	
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED)**Form DF-43****AUTHOR****AMENDMENT DATE****BILL NUMBER**

Lara, Ricardo

06/20/2012

AB 925

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)					
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)					
	CO	PROP					Fund
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012 FC	2012-2013 FC	2013-2014	Code
6110/Dept of Educ	LA	Yes		----- See Fiscal Summary -----			0001